

Message

---

**From:** Bryant, Renee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DF11455E026D4599AE0D6A5471F1C0A4-RSEARFOS]  
**Sent:** 5/20/2021 9:41:03 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Brian [Hamilton.Brian@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Screenshots

Thanks for chiming in Brian!

Renee Bryant (she/her)  
Source Water Protection Team Lead  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-2137  
<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>

---

**From:** Hamilton, Brian <Hamilton.Brian@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:14 PM  
**To:** Yeany, Philip <Yeany.Philip@epa.gov>; Bryant, Renee <bryant.renee@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Rowsey, Kevin <rowsey.kevin@epa.gov>; Hancharick, Ryan <Hancharick.Ryan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Screenshots

Hi Philip –

I think generally the interactions we have with tribes emulate typical government to government meetings or discussions (like with states or other gov depts). The minor differences I have seen is that some tribes prefer to begin and end meetings with prayers or thanksgiving addresses, so we ensure we respect that. I always try and structure the meetings where it begins with the tribes being given an opportunity to discuss what they want and EPA listening. Showing deference to the Tribes in this manner is important as a sign of respect and openness to learning about their culture, customs, interests and concerns. Often tribes will criticize fed. gov that they don't do enough listening (well warranted in history and present day obviously), so dedicating a period of time for the Tribe to discuss what they want, present what they want to is important.

More minor but albeit important nuance to meeting and working with tribes entail using the right identifiers, i.e. The Seneca Nation of Indians is a Nation, not a Tribe, so we want to use Nation to address them instead of Tribe. I think another point to be cognizant of when meeting with Tribes is that they are their own government and they are a sovereign nation. They have their own elected council, and Chief (or President) and pass their own legislation, codes, ordinances etc. I point this out because I think that isn't recognized enough that these tribes are governments and operate in a similar manner to the federal government and state governments (at a different scale). The tribes hold very highly their sovereignty and if they feel that is being encroached upon they will call you on it. I can expand on that better in a phone conversation, it's hard to articulate in writing.

Any other questions or comments please let me know.

--Brian

---

**From:** Yeany, Philip <Yeany.Philip@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 7:45 AM  
**To:** Bryant, Renee <bryant.renee@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Rowsey, Kevin <rowsey.kevin@epa.gov>; Hancharick, Ryan <Hancharick.Ryan@epa.gov>; Hamilton, Brian

<Hamilton.Brian@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Screenshots

Renee,

Thanks for the screenshots. I have two questions. In your notes from the meeting, you noted someone made the comment that “[a]dditional wells just lead to pinhole cushioning and unsure that model can really predict groundwater flow as a result.” What does this comment mean? What is pinhole cushioning?

Also, during our call last week about tribal consultation, you said (although it may have been Brian) that there were certain cultural differences to keep in mind when interacting with members of the Seneca Nation. What were these differences? Thanks.

Phil

X2495

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This message and any attachments may be deliberative, attorney-client, attorney work product or otherwise privileged material. The message and any attachments are only for the use of the intended recipient of this message. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me by return email, and delete or destroy this and all copies of this message and all attachments without reading them or saving them by any means. Any unauthorized disclosure, use, distribution, or reproduction of this message or any attachments is prohibited and may be unlawful. Thank you.

---

**From:** Bryant, Renee <bryant.renee@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:32 PM

**To:** Yeany, Philip <Yeany.Philip@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Screenshots

Hey Phil,

Thanks for the reminder! Below are the screenshots.

## Meeting with Seneca Tribe re: Catalyst

Thursday, April 22, 2021

8:16 AM

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

10:06 AM

Lisa and Shawn

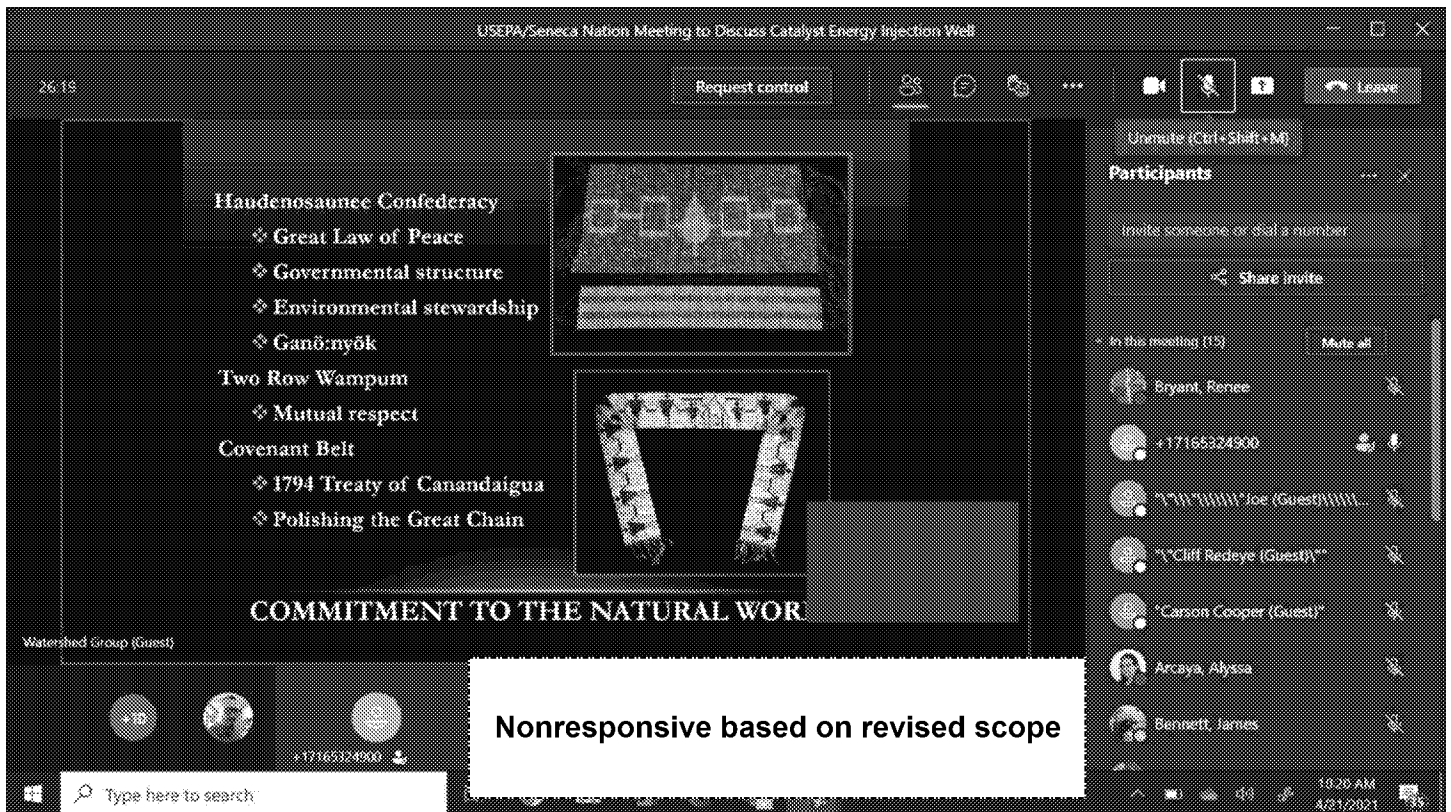
Tribal Counsel

Cliff Redeye

Water Group

Shannon Seneca

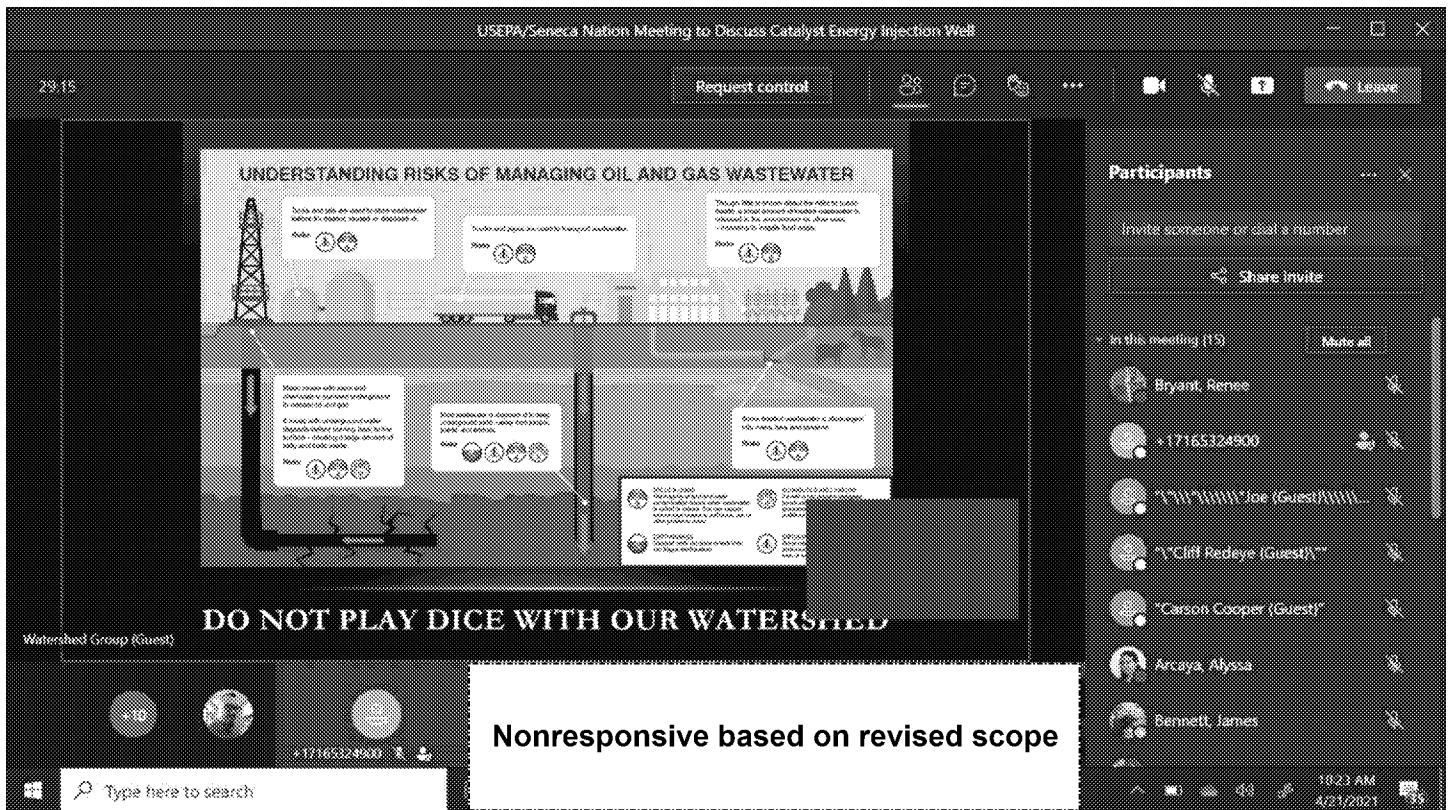




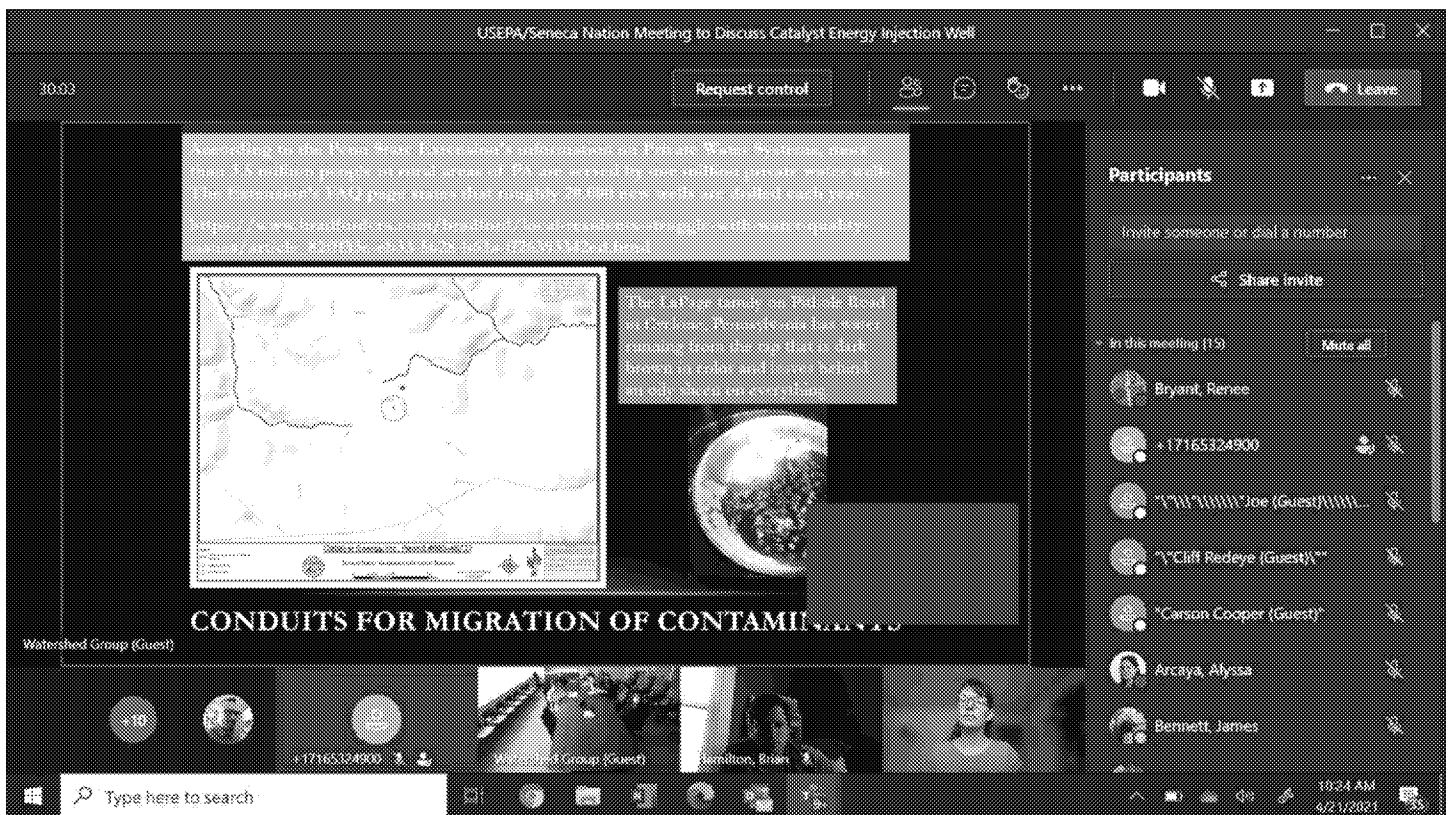
Focused on coming together in one mind  
Respect each other in our own vessels  
Covenant belt - working together on turtle island  
Polishing the great chain takes a lot of time and effort  
Commitment to natural world comes to them in original instructions

Cattaraugus Territory  
They have collection points of these watersheds right on territory

Upper Allegheny  
So much sediment collected at the reservoir



Too many unknowns to say this is a long term viable solution  
Need to consider future generations



Community of drinking water system right outside the quarter mile radius  
There are a lot of tributaries close by

They are very concerned

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

family

Know that secondary standards may also be exceeded due to iron

But the oily sheen is not associated with secondary standards

USEPA/Seneca Nation Meeting to Discuss Catalyst Energy Injection Well

32:31

Request control

Participants

Invite someone or dial a number

Share invite

In this meeting (15)

Mute all

Bryant, Renee

+17165324900

Joe (Guest)

Clift Redeye (Guest)

Carson Cooper (Guest)

Arcaya, Alyssa

Bennett, James

Watershed Group (Guest)

Commercial

Injection

Class HD (except from correct labeling of waste)

Disposal Well

2000 feet to NW

Community Water System

1800 feet to NE

Private Drinking water well

900 feet SW

Plugged and abandoned deep well

1000 feet

Deep well (monitor)

CONDUITS FOR MIGRATION OF CONTAMINANTS

Nonresponsive based on revised scope

Type here to search

10:26 AM 4/21/2021

Additional wells just lead to pinhole cushioning and unsure that model can really predict groundwater flow as a result

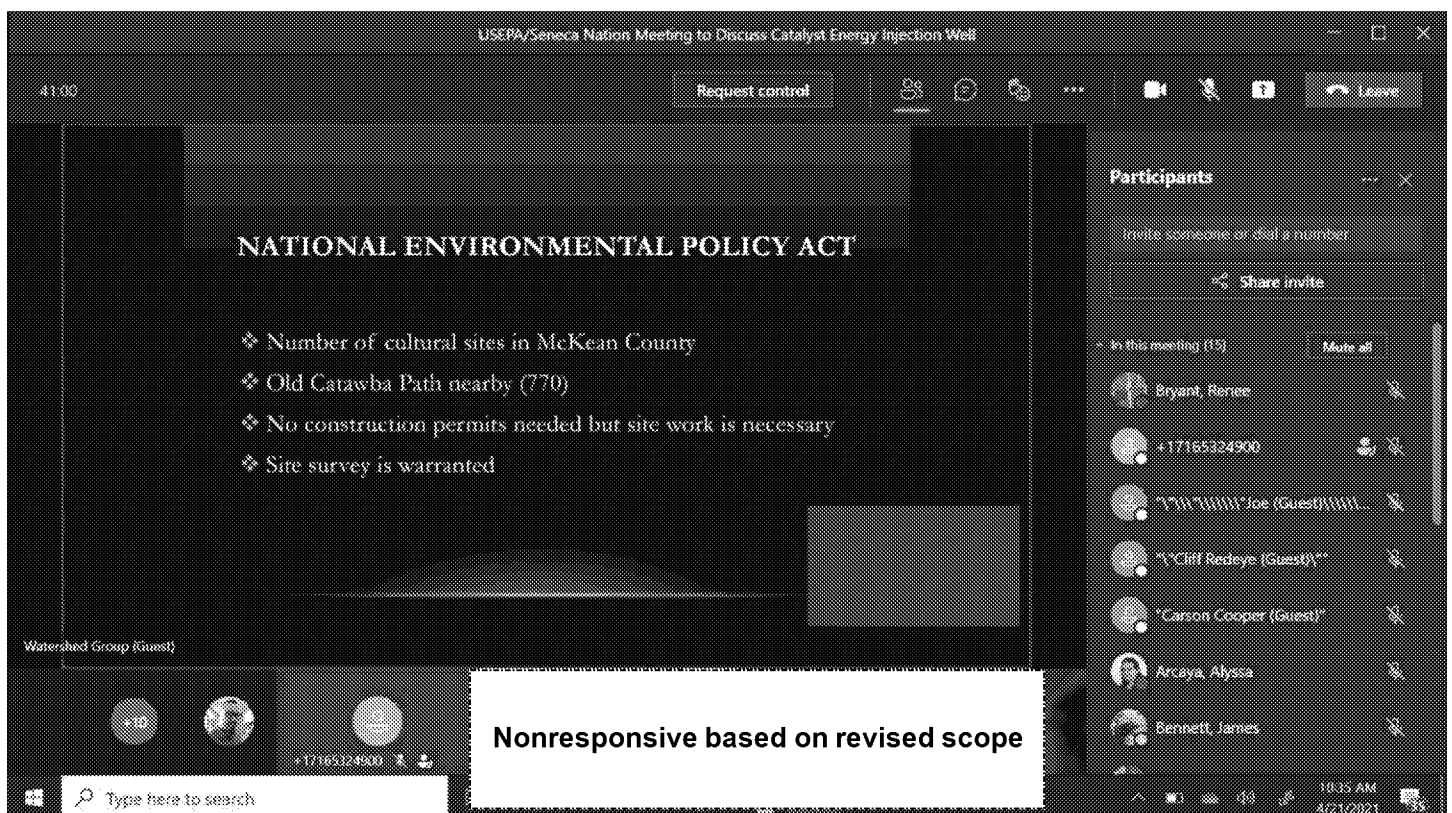
Permit application doesn't mention long term cumulative impacts

If the groundwater is contaminated, someone is quoted that there would be no way to clean it



Question about visiting the site during the construction process  
 If this is how the site is to be left, there are resulted out drums at the site

Monitoring well is from 1974



No site surveys have been done  
 They think a site survey is warranted

Have a hard time envisioning how the site will be constructed without clearing trees, etc.

Request is to not move application forward

Applicant did everything asked of them but the potential is too great for such a pristine watershed

Joe

Cultural resource

He relies on number of resources to do his background work - some exclusive to Seneca Nation

Also rely on GIS

Relies on archeological predictive model

Slope, elevation, distance from a water source, etc.

He said cultural resource surveys not completed

Catalyst is near water sources nearby

Checked out known sites in Region

Sites at this height are not uncommon

Probable that there is a cultural impact in the area and believe a survey is warranted

Dave was at the site around 5 weeks ago

Site visit

Inspector since 1986 so familiar with this area

Will be submitting more formal comments

How does that site transform into what is proposed?

How does it function after they are done?

Dave said they would have to do extensive work in order for it to be permitted and operated as a Class II well

Is that part of the approval process as to how they are going to do that work?

Jim said conditions of well would be included in the permit

Dave - testing required, well logging, monitoring, proof of integrity

PADEP would be involved in the surface facilities

Asked Dave to go over what he does during an inspection

Inspections during construction and testing of well prior to putting it into operation

Well logging try to witness

Have to do a mechanical integrity test prior to operation and witness the test

Operation - routine inspections to do mechanical integrity tests

Have to do fluid monitoring of monitoring well

Compliance with conditions in permit as it relates to pressure and volume

What is that routine schedule?

No fixed schedule

Try to do it based on activity

At least once a year

This well may warrant any time he is in the area

Work out of Titusville, PA but is routinely in Bradford at least every couple of weeks, sometimes every week

Jim said mechanical integrity test scheduled on a 2 year basis

Requirements of rehab of monitoring well or looking at monitoring well?

What if their monitoring well is not viable?

They provided documentation on how well was constructed

In 70s drilled by Amoco

Reviewed how it was constructed, cement, multiple strings of casing



Have to perform an initial fluid evaluation and run tubing to ensure that water level can be monitoring  
Have to do this prior to putting it into operation  
Does have multiple layers of casing and cement which provide protection to underground sources of drinking water and ability to monitor underground formation  
Shane - depending on company to report their problems  
Exco resources in Clearfield county in 2011  
Ran through August - 5 months of injecting fluids into ground when they knew it was leaking  
EPA enforcement action but they still had the ability to violate  
Wanted to know how much money they made compared to the EPA fine  
Would love to see some better ways of monitoring to ensure that the wells are being operated properly  
Jim - well would be fitted with an automatic shutoff  
So it can't be the operator pushing the button  
Safety with an automatic shut off  
Jim wasn't involved in 2011 with Exco  
They had mechanical issue with tubing string  
Released pressure from annulus, put into tank, tried to reinject it  
Not a threat to groundwater but still a serious violation  
Witnessed an MIT test to that well 3 months prior to this event  
Had to do a number of other tests to prove they were ok to resume operations  
PADEP required additional testing  
Penalized to maximum extent of UIC violations

Shannon

Historically geology in PA was presumed not to be able to support these wells  
Jim was saying economics were mostly driving the decision at the time not the geology  
But there were other options at that time that were able to be used

Shane still wanting to know about economic benefit of violating vs paying the fine

Renee Bryant (she/her)  
Source Water Protection Team Lead  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-2137  
<https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection>

---

**From:** Yeany, Philip <[Yeany.Phillip@epa.gov](mailto:Yeany.Phillip@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 6:55 AM  
**To:** Bryant, Renee <[bryant.renee@epa.gov](mailto:bryant.renee@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rowsey, Kevin <[rowsey.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:rowsey.kevin@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Screenshots

Renee,

When we had our meeting about tribal consultation, I believe you said you had screenshots of a presentation the Seneca Nation gave on appropriate interactions with Native Americans. If this is correct, please send me a copy of the screenshots.

Phil  
X2495

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message and any attachments may be deliberative, attorney-client, attorney work product or otherwise privileged material. The message and any attachments are only for the use of the intended recipient of this message. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me by return email, and delete or destroy this and all copies of this message and all attachments without reading them or saving them by any means. Any unauthorized disclosure, use, distribution, or reproduction of this message or any attachments is prohibited and may be unlawful. Thank you.